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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,574	11/13/2003	David S. Ruch	10031US	8790
7590 William D. McSpadden BAKER & MCKENZIE 2300 Trammell Crow Center 2001 Ross Avenue Dallas, TX 75201		01/23/2008	EXAMINER ARAJ, MICHAEL J	
			ART UNIT 3733	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 01/23/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Interview Summary

Application No.

10/712,574

Applicant(s)

RUCH ET AL. CT

Examiner

Michael J. Araj

Art Unit

3733

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Michael J. Araj.

(3) _____

(2) Richard Wells.

(4) _____

Date of Interview: 14 January 2008.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.

If Yes, brief description: _____

Claim(s) discussed: 1 and 19.


Identification of prior art discussed: Orsak (U.S. Patent No. 5,683,389).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached: g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☒ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.



Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.



Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant's attorney called to discuss possible claim amendments. The examiner told the applicant's representative to further claim the clamp assembly as well as claim how the device is able to attach to either the radius or the ulna to further differentiate the claim from the prior art. The applicant's attorney faxed over some proposed amendments (attached hereto) which appear to overcome the art of record, but further search and consideration will be necessary for proper analysis of the claims.

Serial No. 10/712,574
Attorney Docket No. 24179785.010031

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Ruch et al.

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING BONES IN A
HEALING POSITION

Application No.: 10/712,574 Filed: November 13, 2003

Examiner: Araj, Michael J. Group Art Unit: 3733

Atty. Docket No.: 24179785.010031 US

January 15, 2008

Draft Claim Amendments (For Discussion Purposes Only)

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for and maintaining a wrist in a
healing position comprising:

a first clamp assembly comprising:

a bracket operable to removably mount to an external fixator, the external
fixator having a first longitudinal axis; and

a connector rod fastener disposed on ~~[[a-substantially-planar-side-of]]~~ the
bracket, the connector rod fastener comprising a clamp assembly
base seated on the bracket and a clamp assembly head disposed
over the clamp assembly base, the clamp assembly base and head
being operable to receive a connector rod having a second
longitudinal axis, whereby the first longitudinal axis is in a spaced
relation with the second longitudinal axis when the connector rod
is received in the connector rod fastener to permit extension of the
connector rod across a human's extremity in the radial to ulnar
direction;

a second clamp assembly operable to releasably couple to at least one
bone pin embedded in a bone; and the connector rod operable to
join the first clamp assembly to the second clamp assembly.

Serial No. 10/712,574

Attorney Docket No. 24179785.010031

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for maintaining a healing position of one or more bones of a human's wrist wherein at least one bone of the human's wrist is injured comprising:

a first clamp assembly comprising:

a bracket operable to removably mount to an external fixator when the external fixator is coupled to a bone of a human;

a fastener base disposed on the bracket, the fastener base being operable to receive a connector rod, whereby the connector rod is in an elevated position relative to the external fixator to permit extension of the connector rod across a human's extremity in the radial to ulnar direction; and

a clamp assembly head disposed over the fastener base and operable to engage the connector rod, and thereby lock the connector rod in place;

a second clamp assembly operable to releasably couple to at least one bone pin embedded in a bone of a human; and

the connector rod operable to join the first clamp assembly to the second clamp assembly.